



## **Bayshore Home Health offers free respiratory mask fit testing for physicians and their office staff** *--Precautionary measure responds to recent flu outbreak--*

**Mississauga, Ont., May 1, 2009** – Bayshore Home Health is offering free fit testing of the N95 mask to Canadian physicians and their office staff. The program is a public service available at over 40 Bayshore Home Health branches across the country. The test will be conducted by trained fit testers, according to provincial health ministry guidelines and CSA standards.

“We learned from SARS how critical it is to maintain the health of physicians, nurses and other health care staff during an infectious disease outbreak,” says Holly Quinn, chief nursing officer for Bayshore Home Health. “Doctors and their staff are on the front line when disease strikes and if their health is affected they’re unable to care for their patients.”

Disposable N95 respirator masks are worn by many health care workers as a means of protecting themselves from airborne, respiratory diseases. The masks provide a high level of respiratory protection by offering a 95% filter efficiency and a tight facial seal. The fit-testing process involves selecting the correct size and type of respirator mask. The fitting process also ensures the individual knows how to use the mask correctly.

Physicians and their office staff who are interested in getting fitted for a mask, should contact their local Bayshore Home Health office. A list of offices can be found at [www.bayshore.ca](http://www.bayshore.ca) along with a list of steps to take prior to the test. It’s not necessary to bring a mask to the test and a card with an individual’s personal mask specifications will be provided.

“Bayshore is supporting the health of the community wherever we can,” concludes Quinn. “We’re working closely with government care programs and other organizations to deliver home and community care services. Home care plays a key role during a flu outbreak in keeping people who require on-going health care out of hospitals where they are more likely to come into contact with a wide range of viruses during a flu epidemic.”

**About Bayshore Home Health**

Bayshore Home Health has been enhancing the quality of life, dignity and independence of Canadians in their homes since 1966. Canadian owned and operated, it is the country's largest provider of home and community health care services, with more than 40 home care offices, 20 community care clinics and 8,000 employees. Its core services are in-home nursing, personal care and home support – which can be purchased directly by individuals and also accessed through government care programs, personal and group insurance plans and workplace safety insurance. Its caregivers deliver more than 5.2 million hours of home care annually to over 57,000 clients. It also provides nurse/caregiver staffing services, health education programs and treatments in its dialysis centres. Its subsidiary, Bayshore Specialty Rx, offers infusion pharmacy, infusion clinic and pharmaceutical support services to a variety of health care and pharmaceutical organizations.

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**For more information contact:**

Holly Quinn  
Chief Nursing Officer  
Bayshore Home Health  
(416) 524-6481  
hquinn@bayshore.ca  
[www.bayshore.ca](http://www.bayshore.ca)